

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077412

12

ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05

OES-03 COME-00 NASA-01 (ISO) R

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APPROVED BY PM/ISO:FJFLEMINGS

SAFGC - MR ALLEN

OSD/GC - MR ALLEN

OSD/ISA/EUR - COL MAJORS

OSD/ISA/FMRA - MR GOLDSMITH

EUR/WE - MR GALLAGHER

----- 013786

R 050042Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECDEF/ISA/FMRA

CSAF/XOXXIF

HQ ADC ENT AFB COLO/XPQDS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077412

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY WHEN OPERATING RIGHTS

CONTAINED HEREIN HAVE BEEN GRANTED

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, IT, OTRA

SUBJECT: BAKER-NUNN RELOCATION SURVEY

1. THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE'S AEROSPACE DEFENSE
COMMAND (ADC), IS PLANNING A SPACETRACK SYSTEM CON-
SISTING OF A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF SENSORS AND SUPPORT
FACILITIES WHICH WILL COLLECTIVELY FUNCTION TO PROVIDE
DATA ON MANMADE OBJECTS IN SPACE. THE SPACETRACK SYSTEM
NOW CONSISTS OF AN OPERATIONAL CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS
AND SEVERAL WIDELY DISPERSED SENSORS.

2. THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA, SUCH AS THE ONE LOCATED AT
SAN VITO, ITALY IS TYPICAL OF THE OPTICAL SENSORS
PROPOSED FOR THE NETWORK. SUCH CAMERAS WILL BE USED TO

(1) TRACK THOSE OBJECTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 077412

RADAR CROSS SECTION OR TOO GREAT A RANGE, CANNOT BE

OBSERVED BY OTHER TYPE SENSORS, (2) PROVIDE OBSERVATIONS FOR HIGHLY ACCURATE ORBIT DETERMINATION IN SELECTED SATELLITES FOR SYSTEM CALIBRATION, EVALUATION, AND QUALITY CONTROL, AND (3) PROVIDE HIGHLY ACCURATE OBSERVATIONS ON SELECTED SATELLITES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

3. THE SAN VITO CAMERA CAN BE USED IN THIS NEW SYSTEM

ONLY IF CERTAIN OPERATIONAL DEFICIENCIES CAUSED BY WEATHER AND LOCAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS ARE OVERCOME. REALIZING THE ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING THIS WOULD INVOLVE, THE AIR FORCE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER TO RELOCATE THE CAMERA TO SOME MORE OPERATIONALLY DESIRABLE AREA IN ITALY WHERE THE WEATHER AND LOCAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS ARE MORE FAVORABLE.

4. SITE SURVEYS ARE PROPOSED FOR LOCATIONS WHICH FIT THE ABOVE CRITERIA AND HAVE BEEN SELECTED BASED UPON A VATICAN OBSERVATORY STUDY OF NIGHT-SKY BRIGHTNESS. THESE ARE CATANIA AND SIGONELLA ON SICILY AND DECIMOMANNU, CAGLIARI, AND MT. LIMBARA ON SARDINIA. SHOULD SITE SURVEYS CULMINATE IN DETERMINATION THAT ONE OF THE LOCATIONS IS OPERATIONALLY SUITABLE, A FORMAL REQUEST WILL FOLLOW FROM DEPARTMENT TO EMBASSY DESCRIBING PROPOSAL FULLY AND PROVIDING BASIS FOR MAKING APPROACH TO GOI.

5. SURVEY WILL REQUIRE BRINGING IN APPROXIMATELY SIXTY POUNDS OF HAND CARRIED EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS US GOVERNMENT OWNED AND WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT WHEN THE TEAM LEAVES. THE EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF 35 MM CAMERAS FOR SITE PHOTOGRAPHS AND A QUESTAR TELESCOPE/ PHOTO MULTIPLIER TUBE/POWER SUPPLY PACKAGE FOR ASTRONOMICAL MEASUREMENTS. APPROXIMATELY SIX MILITARY/DOD CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, ALL US CITIZENS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE SURVEY. ANTICIPATE TEAM LEADER TO BE NO HIGHER IN RANK THAN COLONEL OR LT COLONEL.

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PAGE 03 STATE 077412

6. IF CAMERA IS INSTALLED, ANY AND ALL RAW TRACKING DATA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOI AUTHORITIES UPON REQUEST. IN ADDITION, THE SITE WILL HONOR REQUESTS FOR DATA AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HOST NATION ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORIES, SOCIETIES, OR UNIVERSITIES ON A NON-INTERFERENCE, NO COST BASIS.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK GOI APPROVAL FOR SURVEY WITH

THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO RELOCATE
SAN VITO CAMERA SHOULD ONE OF THE PROPOSED SITES
PROVE FAVORABLE. SHOULD PROPOSAL MEET WITH ACCEPTANCE,
FINALIZED TRAVEL DETAILS, INCLUDING ITINERARY, WILL BE
PROVIDED TO USDAO FOR OBTAINING EMBASSY CLEARANCE.
ANTICIPATE WEEK OF 26-30 MAY 75, FOR SURVEY. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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